

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
19 February 2004 (19.02.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/015929 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04L 12/28**,
29/06, 12/24, 29/08

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2003/003308

(22) International Filing Date: 24 July 2003 (24.07.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0218174.1 6 August 2002 (06.08.2002) GB
0309400.0 25 April 2003 (25.04.2003) GB

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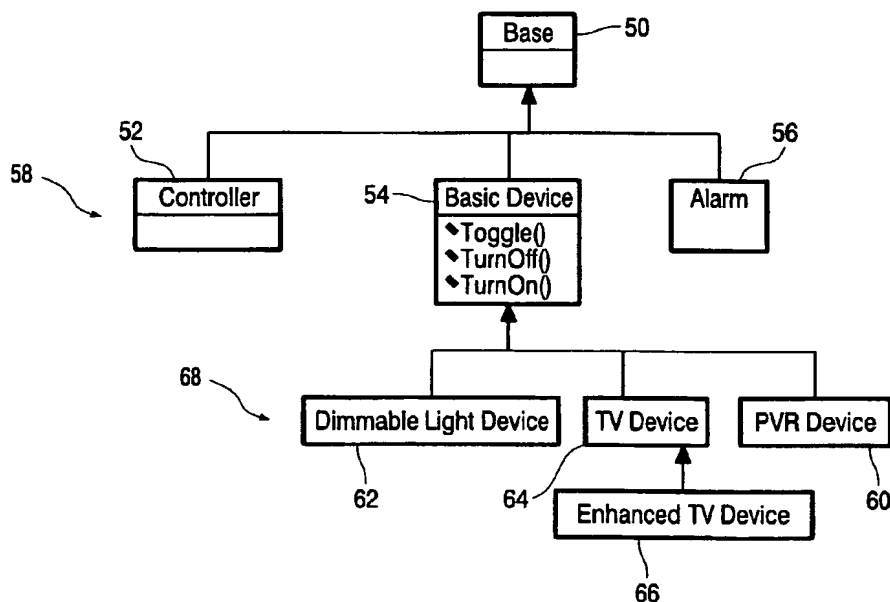
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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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(54) Title: A NETWORK ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL



(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to a protocol for communications between networked devices. The devices are logically arranged as a hierarchy of device types including a controller device type (52) from which no other device type depends and a basic device type (54) from which a number of other device types depend. The devices implement a simple device description message of fixed length and format which includes the device type, and some devices further implement an extended device description message including additional information.